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CITY of BEAVERTON

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY OF BEAVERTON UNVEILS NEW ARMED FORCES BANNER PROGRAM

- City displays first banners honoring active duty service men and women -

BEAVERTON, Ore. — The city of Beaverton, led by the Police Department, will unveil its new Armed Forces Banner Program on Wednesday, Feb. 20 at 10:30 a.m. The Armed Forces Banner Program was created to recognize and honor Beaverton's active duty military personnel. The public is invited to attend.

"These banners are a simple tribute to the active duty service men and women of our community," said Mayor Denny Doyle. "Many families in Beaverton have loved ones in the armed forces and the banners are a nice reminder that we support these families. It's so important that we honor those who bravely serve our country."

The first three banners, honoring Anthony T. Trice, Jamin Striplin and Nicholas Hittner will go up along southbound Murray Boulevard (on the first three light poles south of Allen).

Trice, a 1999 graduate of Roosevelt High School, is a Specialist in the U.S. Army and is serving his second tour in Afghanistan. In high school he was passionate about boxing and soccer. In 1995, Trice had an internship with Governor Kitzhaber as part of the Youth Employment Empowerment Program and later, he served on the Beaverton police force as a reserve officer for three years. Trice is the son of Melba Pritchard and Eddie Trice. His three children live in Beaverton.

Striplin, an E6 Petty Officer 2, joined the Navy after his high school graduation from Beaverton High in 2006. Currently, he serves on the nuclear submarine USS Henry M. Jackson out of Bangor, Wash. His parents, Dan and Nancy Striplin reside in Beaverton as well as his grandparents, Jim and Char McCreight. Striplin has three sisters and a fiancée, Diana Villacis.

Hittner, a First Lieutenant of the U.S. Army, is currently based in Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. He is a 2003 graduate of Beaverton High, where he participated on the varsity football and basketball teams. Hittner graduated from Montana State University Northern in 2008, where he played basketball and earned his bachelor of science degree. Hittner has been a resident of Beaverton for 17 years. His parents, Jim and Cindy, and three sisters also reside in Beaverton. Hittner's wife, Dominique, serves as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and currently lives with him in Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

The Armed Forces Banner Program began with seed money from the city. The program depends upon community donations and sponsorships, which support the purchase and placement of banners in Beaverton along north and southbound Murray Boulevard from SW Allen to SW Scholls Ferry. The banners include the serviceperson's name and military branch.

To qualify, honorees must meet the following conditions:

- Active duty military personnel of the United States Armed Forces
- Current Beaverton resident

"As a veteran, it's so important to me that we recognize our active duty military personnel," said Officer James Cummo, of the Beaverton Police Department and coordinator of the program. "This program is a way for us to publicly show that we support and appreciate our troops."

Now that the program is up and running, banners will be installed in January, April, July and September. Banners are displayed for a maximum of one year. Once the banners are retired, they are given to the honoree or family.

The city is currently accepting donations and sponsorships for the program. Applications for banners are accepted year round. To apply for a banner or for more information, please visit www.BeavertonOregon.gov/ArmedForcesBannerProgram or contact Officer James Cummo at 503-526-2261.

Beaverton enjoys one of the most diverse populations among Oregon cities. Most recently, the city was awarded the **2012 Mayors' Climate Protection Award** from the U.S. Conference of Mayors. It was one of just four cities of its size recently recognized as a "**Smarter City**" **energy leader by the Natural Resources Defense Council** and **one of the 100 Best Places to Live in America** by *Money* magazine. In addition, Beaverton has been named **one of the safest cities in the Pacific Northwest** for three consecutive years, as one of the **best places to raise kids** by *BusinessWeek* magazine, an **All-America City finalist**, as **one of the top 25 Suburbs for Retirement** by *Forbes.com*, **one of the 100 Best Walking Cities in America** by *Prevention* magazine, the **Recycler of the Year** from the Association of Oregon Recyclers, a **Tree City USA** by the Arbor Day Foundation, a **Bronze Award Bicycle Friendly Community** designation by the League of American Bicyclists and as one of the Environmental Protection Agency's **Green Power Communities**, the Beaverton Community Vision program was named **Public Involvement Project of the Year—Best Planning Project** by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Cascade Chapter. For more information, please visit www.BeavertonOregon.gov or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cityofbeaverton.

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